

**Claims**

30 For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)

35 2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

40 5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

45 7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A processing engine for a processing node of an  
50 electronic commerce distributed network, the processing engine comprising:

a plurality of communication units operable to communicate with participating organizations in a plurality of communication protocols, the plurality of communication units further operable to receive electronic commerce messages from originator organizations and communicate said electronic commerce messages to recipient organizations;

55 an engine operable to process an electronic commerce message received from an originator organization and to build an outgoing electronic commerce message for transmission to a recipient organization, wherein the engine accomplishes processing and building by:

60 accessing profiles that defines characteristics for the originator organization and the recipient organization; and

invoking selected functions from a plurality matrix of functions where the selected functions are chosen based upon the profiles for the originator organization and the recipient organization; and

65 an interface unit coupled to and communicating with the plurality of communication units and the engine, the interface unit allowing incoming and said outgoing electronic commerce messages to be communicated between the plurality of communication units and the engine;

70 the processing engine providing electronic commerce interconnectivity for participating organizations that have different computer and communication environments; and

75 wherein the plurality of communication units includes a plurality of Internet mail units, and the processing engine further comprising a gateway coupled to the plurality of Internet mail units and the engine, the gateway operable to interface between a communication protocol of the plurality of internet mail units and a communication protocol of the interface unit.

10. (Original) The processing engine of Claim 9, wherein the interface unit is an X.400 unit operable to communicate using an X.400 protocol.

80 11. (Original) The processing engine of Claim 10, wherein the plurality of communication units comprise a P1 unit and a P7 unit.

12. (Canceled)

85 13. (Currently Amended) The processing engine of Claim 9 12, wherein the plurality of Internet mail units comprise an SMTP unit, a MIME unit and a POP unit.

90 14. (Original) The processing engine of Claim 9, wherein the profiles of the originator organization and the recipient organization are accessible via an external user interface.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

95 17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

100 19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

Please add the following claims:

105 21. (New) The system of Claim 9, wherein the selected functions comprise an electronic data exchange conversion.

110 22. (New) The system of Claim 9, wherein the selected functions comprise virus checking.

23. (New) The system of Claim 9, wherein the selected functions comprise providing a translation.

115 24. (New) The system of Claim 9, wherein the processing engine maintains audit files of the selected functions, the audit files accessible via an external user interface.

120 25. (New) A method for an electronic commerce distributed network, comprising: communicating with participating organizations in a plurality of communication protocols using a plurality communication units;

receiving electronic commerce messages from originator organizations and communicating said electronic commerce messages to recipient organizations;

125 processing at a processing engine an electronic commerce message received from an originator organization and building an outgoing electronic commerce message for transmission to a recipient organization by:

accessing profiles that defines characteristics for the originator organization and the recipient organization; and

130 invoking selected functions from a plurality of functions where the selected functions are chosen based upon the profiles for the originator organization and the recipient organization;

allowing incoming and said outgoing electronic commerce messages to be communicated between the plurality of communication units and the engine at an interface unit;

135 providing electronic commerce interconnectivity for participating organizations that have different computer and communication environments; and

interfacing between a communication protocol of a plurality of Internet mail units of the communication units and a communication protocol of the interface unit.

140 26. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the interface unit is an X.400 unit operable to communicate using an X.400 protocol.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the plurality of communication units comprise a P1 unit and a P7 unit.

145        28. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of Internet mail units comprise an SMTP unit, a MIME unit and a POP unit.

29. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the profiles of the originator organization and the recipient organization are accessible via an external user interface.

150        30. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the selected functions comprise an electronic data exchange conversion.

155        31. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the selected functions comprise virus checking.

32. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the selected functions comprise providing a translation.

160        33. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the processing engine maintains audit files of the selected functions, the audit files accessible via an external user interface.

34. (New) A system for an electronic commerce distributed network, comprising:  
means for communicating with participating organizations in a plurality of  
165 communication protocols using a plurality communication units;  
means for receiving electronic commerce messages from originator organizations and  
communicating said electronic commerce messages to recipient organizations;  
means for processing at a processing engine an electronic commerce message  
received from an originator organization and building an outgoing electronic commerce  
170 message for transmission to a recipient organization by:  
accessing profiles that defines characteristics for the originator organization  
and the recipient organization; and  
invoking selected functions from a plurality of functions where the selected  
functions are chosen based upon the profiles for the originator organization and the recipient  
175 organization;  
means for allowing incoming and said outgoing electronic commerce messages to be  
communicated between the plurality of communication units and the engine at an interface  
unit;  
means for providing electronic commerce interconnectivity for participating  
180 organizations that have different computer and communication environments; and  
means for interfacing between a communication protocol of a plurality of Internet  
mail units of the communication units and a communication protocol of the interface unit.